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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

REPORT DESERTIONS FROM ALERT POLICE

SOME DESERTERS DISILLUSIONED -- Buenos Aires, Argentinisches Tageblatt, 20 Jul 51

The intensified arming of East Germany's Alert Police with Soviet weapons and equipment is meeting with growing resistance on the part of the men on the police force, who feel that they are being turned into mercenaries for the USSR. This resentment is partly responsible for the constantly increasing number of desertions.

Only a very small minority of the deserters claims to have been recruited according to regular procedure; a further small percentage had volunteered. The great majority of the deserters, however, state that economic pressure or coercive measures on the part of the labor offices forced them to join the People's Police. Most of the volunteers are members of the FDJ (Free German Youth). Deserters from this group stated that service in the Alert Police had disillusioned them and that they have no desire to serve in a mercenary army.

MILITARIZE PEOPLE'S POLICE -- Buenos Aires, Argentinisches Tageblatt, 1 Jul 51

The regrouping of the East German People's Police calls for the setting up of combined combat units of three infantry battalions, one artillery battalion, and seven special detachments each, which are to surpass a Soviet mechanized regiment in fire power. The Soviet regiments are equipped with some 12 artillery pieces, 30 heavy mortars, and 12 heavy machine guns, whereas People's Police units, under the new table of organization, will be equipped with 16 artillery pieces, 68 heavy mortars, and 54 heavy machine guns. Main emphasis in tactical training of the People's Police is on attack. The instructors are graduates of the Officers' Training School in Saratov. In future, all officers of the People's Police are to be trained at this school.

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CLAIM PEOPLE'S POLICE BUDGETARY APPROPRIATIONS CUT -- Zurich Neue Zuercher Zeitung, 11 May 51

Berlin (Reuter) -- On 9 May, Burgomaster Friedrich Ebert told the People's Chamber that East Berlin has cut the 1951 budget appropriations for the People's Police by 20 percent.

According to Ebert, the question of the numerical strength and of the equipment of the People's Police need no longer be a barrier to discussions between East and West Berlin, concerning the reunification of "our destroyed city."

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